REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claim 1 is amended to clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art documents. Amendments of claim 1 are supported by the specification as originally filed, particularly on page 7, line 21-23; page 8, line 30 to page 9, line 3; and the examples on page 10, lines 7-23. Review and reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully note that the drawings have not been considered by the Examiner, despite Applicants request in the previous response. Review and acknowledgement that the drawings are approved by the Examiner are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Manico et al. (Manico), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0236716, and further in view of Alvesalo, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0222899. Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 1, from which claim 7 depends, is directed to a process of enabling a user at a terminal to generate an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message on at least one page and display the composite multimedia message on the screen of the terminal. The composite multimedia message is formed from a selection, performed by the user from the keyboard of the terminal, of at least two initial multimedia messages, and the automatic analysis of the contents of each selected initial multimedia message. The key contents of each selected initial multimedia message are formatted for display, and possibly for printing, on a number of pages as a composite multimedia message, wherein the number of pages of said composite multimedia message is less than the number of initial multimedia messages selected. The invention therefore optimizes the layout in forming said composite multimedia message to minimize the number of views or displays and consequently also the printing needs, thereby reducing the corresponding printing cost as compared to printing each selected initial multimedia message independently (*see*, for example, the specification at page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 2; page 9, line 25; page 11, lines 17-20; and page 12, lines 3-5).

Manico does not disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1. Manico is directed to a method and a system for customizing a presentation of digital images by selecting a first presentation format, with the possibility of selecting a second presentation format (*see*, for example, claims 1, 24 of Manico). The user selects for example the format options (*see*, for example, pages 2-3, paragraph 21 and figure 3 of Manico). After an initial review of the first presentation format, the user is able to access a selection of new formats and preview the differently formatted presentation corresponding to the user's final choice (*see*, for example, page 4, paragraph 26 of Manico).

Manico does not disclose or suggest a process adapted to enable an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message from a selection of at least two initial multimedia messages, or automatically analysing the contents of the at least two selected initial multimedia messages to automatically lay out with programmed formats the composite multimedia message on a number of pages less than the number of initially selected multimedia messages, as claimed by Applicants. The objective of Applicants' invention as set forth at least in claim 1 is to reduce the number of displayed views and, if desired, corresponding printing cost, if printing the resulting composite message is selected (*see*, for example, the specification at page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 2; page 11, lines 17-20; page 12, lines 3-5). Thus, Manico does not disclose or suggest all the features of the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1 and 7 intended for reducing the number of pages displayed.

Alvesalo does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico. Alvesalo discloses a method and a system for creating a multimedia show or presentation including, for example, images and text. Alvesalo discloses at least one template that defines a structure for the multimedia show (*see*, for example, claims 2 and 35 of Alvesalo). In Alvesalo, a template is formed, for instance, with multiple content components: picture, text, and/or audio (*see*, for example, paragraph 23 and figure 3 of Alvesalo). The Examiner at page 3 of the Office Action appears to equate each component of Alvesalo to a single multimedia message as claimed by Applicants, and the template of Alvesalo to the page claimed by Applicants. However, a "multimedia" message, as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, by definition includes more than one type of media, that is, a combination of two or more of text, images, video, or sound. Thus, each component of Alvesalo for use in the template is not necessarily

a multimedia message. Rather, it is possible the template of Alvesalo could be considered a multimedia message because it combines various media to form a whole. However, if the template of Alvesalo is equivalent to a multimedia message of Applicants' invention, Alvesalo does not teach combining two or more multimedia messages. Further, Alvesalo teaches only displaying the template on more than one screen, such that the user must scroll to see the entire template. In contrast, Applicants' invention requires combining two or more multimedia messages such that they occupy a number of pages less than the number of messages. Thus, combining two messages would result in a single page. Alvesalo does not teach, disclose, or suggest that the contents of two or more multimedia messages can be placed on a number of pages less than the number of multimedia messages.

Indeed, in Alvesalo, the user selects a template and contents for the template, correlating the contents to the template. A special editing tool then creates the multimedia show using the templates and corresponding images. Again, this multimedia show is a slide show not formatted to fit on a single page or screen. In Alvesalo, it is difficult or even impossible to show the whole template in one screen, so the keyboard of the terminal is used for scrolling the active view of the template and review all f the template (*see*, paragraph 25 of Alvesalo). Contrary to the present invention for which the composite multimedia message formed of several multimedia messages is automatically displayed on the terminal screen with several multimedia messages per page of screen (*see*, for example, page 10, lines 5-10 and figure 4 of the present application), Alvesalo must scroll to display only one template (i.e.: one multimedia message) in its entirety. Thus, Alvesalo teaches away from the claimed invention by teaching a need to scroll to see a single template. Alvesalo therefore does not cure the deficiencies of Manico.

Both Manico and Alvesalo teach formation of a multimedia slide show intended to be seen on a screen or display only. Neither reference teaches, discloses, or suggests at least selection of at least two initial multimedia messages, automatic layout and automatic display on the screen of a terminal of a composite multimedia message on a number of pages less than the number of initially selected multimedia messages. Therefore, neither Manico nor Alvesalo, alone or in any combination, disclose or suggest all the features of the claimed invention, notably because neither Manico nor Alvesalo tackle

the problem solved by the invention of the present application that is to reduce or to optimize the number of views or pages to be displayed of a composite multimedia message formed from at least two initial selected multimedia messages. Alvesalo actively teaches away from the claimed invention, demonstrating scrolling through two or more screens to see an entire message. For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 1 and 7 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Manico in view of Alvesalo, and further in view of Salmi et al. ("Salmi"), European Patent Application No. EP 1 117 230 A2. Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, neither Manico nor Alvesalo teach, disclose or suggest at least selection of at least two initial multimedia messages, automatic layout or display of a composite multimedia message on a number of pages less than the number of initially selected multimedia messages.

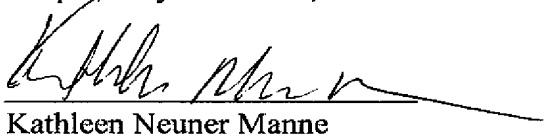
Salmi does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of Manico and Alvesalo. Salmi discloses a method and a system for presenting information from a multimedia message of a first format on a display of a second format so that information is not lost using a presentation model (SMIL) for the message such that information related to a non-displayable component of the message is relayed in another format to the user.

Salmi is directed to information transformation, such that all components of a message will be received between formats. Salmi does not teach, disclose, or suggest compiling a composite message from two or more selected initial messages. Salmi does not teach, disclose or suggest automatic layout or display of a composite multimedia message on a number of pages less than the number of initially selected multimedia messages, or automatic analysis of the contents of two or more selected initial multimedia messages to determine what portions of the selected messages are to be displayed in the composite multimedia message. Salmi does not recognize or address the problem solved by Applicants' claimed invention. Thus, the combination of Manico, Alvesalo, and Salmi in any combination does not teach, disclose, or suggest all features of the claimed invention. For at least the above reasons,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 2-6 and 8-13 are respectfully requested.

All of claims 1-13 being in condition for allowance for at least the above reasons, reconsideration and prompt action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner require anything further, or have any questions, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.